

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HOLLY J. MITCHELL AND
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January 25, 2022

Enhancing How the County Combats Human Trafficking

On January 11, 2022, the Board of Supervisors (Board) proclaimed January 2022 as “Human Trafficking Prevention Month” in the County of Los Angeles (County). For at least the last decade, these proclamations have been accompanied by encouragement to residents and County employees to visit the County’s human trafficking website and “learn more about the issue and find ways to join the fight against human trafficking.” This year we must and will do more.

Beginning with the Obama administration in 2010, and every year thereafter, the President declares January to be “National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month”. Last year, the Biden administration updated the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking (National Action Plan) and encouraged local jurisdictions to continue building capacity to pursue human trafficking cases, promptly connect victims to services, and take concerted steps to prevent human trafficking from occurring.

Over the past decade, the County has worked aggressively to build our capacity to combat human trafficking. From the development and implementation of regional protocols, to the expansion of victim services and resources, to innovative public, private and community-based partnerships, the County has been steadfast in our resolve to end human trafficking throughout the County.

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Several recent events, including the proliferation of online sex trafficking activity, the dual public health and economic pandemic, and upcoming national and international events – which will specifically impact the region – call for this Board to make a more concerted effort to fulfill the goals as outlined in the National Action Plan. With the onset of the pandemic, labor and sex trafficking activity has increased, with recruitment targeting teens who are spending more time unsupervised online¹. According to federal data, 2021 saw an approximately 145% increase over 2020 on the recovery of missing children². It is estimated that one of every six children recovered has likely been a victim of human trafficking³. According to the White House’s National Action Plan, people most vulnerable to human trafficking in the United States (U.S.) are youth in the welfare or juvenile justice system, runaway and homeless youth, undocumented immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities, and people with substance use disorders⁴.

This year, the County will host Superbowl LVI at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood. In 2026, the County will potentially play host to the 2026 FIFA World Cup; and in 2028, several cities and sites throughout the region are slated to host the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. According to recent reporting, with the execution of these large sports and entertainment events comes the need to recruit a temporary workforce – which is directly connected to an increase in human trafficking⁵. For example, more than 1,000 people have died in Qatar as a result of labor trafficking (and associated poor/illegal working conditions) to build new facilities for the 2022 World Cup⁶. The Institute for Sports and Social Justice's "*Shut Out Trafficking*" program reports that there is consistently a spike of reported incidents of human trafficking in the U.S. around January and February - when the Super Bowl usually takes place⁷.

¹ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/01/11/national-slavery-human-trafficking-prevention-month-what-to-know/9111171002/>

² <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/01/11/national-slavery-human-trafficking-prevention-month-what-to-know/9111171002/>

³ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/01/11/national-slavery-human-trafficking-prevention-month-what-to-know/9111171002/>

⁴ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/National-Action-Plan-to-Combat-Human-Trafficking.pdf>

⁵ https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/28607449/the-super-bowl-remains-target-human-trafficking

⁶ https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/28607449/the-super-bowl-remains-target-human-trafficking

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As outlined in the Board's most recent motion, [Proclamation of January as "Human Trafficking Prevention Month,"](#) the Federal Bureau of Investigations has designated the County as one of the nation's 13 "High Intensity Child Exploitation Areas". As the most populous county in the country, with the urging of the federal government – as outlined in the updated National Action Plan – we are compelled to act more intentionally. Increased online recruiting efforts, exacerbated as result of the pandemic, and upcoming major events means the County must continue to innovate and adapt our regional approach to combating human trafficking in the County.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Instruct the Chief Probation Officer (CPO), as Chair of the Integrated Leadership Team (ILT), in coordination with County Counsel, all other relevant County department heads and stakeholders, including labor organizations and leaders in the hospitality, transportation, and entertainment industries, to report back to the Board, in writing, within 90 days, with a major events protocol that:
 - I. Identifies the lead department(s), specific roles and responsibilities of each relevant County department, and a standard operating procedure to be activated for major national and international events hosted in the region.
 - II. Outlines a process whereby major event organizers are required to submit timely for review and approval their action plan(s) for mitigating and addressing potential increases in human trafficking activity as a result of events hosted in the region.
 - i. The plan review and approval process should coincide, and be incorporated into, all other standard approvals requested of the County for the hosting of a major sports or entertainment events.
2. Instruct the CPO, as Chair of the ILT, in coordination with the Superintendent of Schools, Los Angeles County Office of Education, to report back to the Board, in writing, within 90 days on school district compliance with AB 1227, the Human Trafficking Prevention Education and Training Act. The report should identify challenges school districts face in achieving compliance and opportunities for improving and enhancing training content and mediums.

3. Instruct the CPO, as Chair of the ILT, in coordination with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), to leverage the CEO's Master Service Agreement for Communications Consultants to identify and execute an agreement with a communications consultant to produce a social media toolkit and informational campaign that will educate parents, teachers, and youth adjacent professionals on essential "need to know information" concerning targeting and recruitment strategies used to lure children and youth into child sex and human trafficking activities. The agreement shall be fully funded by Healthier Communities, Stronger Families, and Thriving Children funds (HST) with the agreement to have a maximum cost not to exceed \$100,000.
4. Instruct the CPO, as Chair of the ILT, to execute an agreement to support Athletes for Impact in the completion of a Countywide public service announcement campaign to enhance education and awareness efforts to combat human trafficking activities, both during major regional events, including the Super Bowl, and all year long. The agreement shall be fully funded by HST with the agreement to have a maximum cost not to exceed \$40,000.

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